

Specimens were collected in 2 very different parts of the island. The first series was obtained from 24 to 30 October 1979, mainly near the village of Santo Tomás, a classic collecting locality at the edge of the Zapata Swamp in what is now Matanzas Province, with additional specimens from the resort of Playa Larga at the head of the infamous Bahía de Cochinos. The second series was taken from 2 to 5 November 1980 in the extremely arid southeastern part of the island, mainly near the town of Baitiquiri and east along the coast to Imías, in what is now the province of Guantánamo (formerly part of Oriente Province).

All specimens were weighed with Pesola spring balances, on the day of capture, never more than 8 hours subsequent to their having been collected. The sequence and nomenclature in general follows that of Garrido & García (1975). The specimen of *Tyrannus dominicensis*, taken 3 km east of San Antonio del Sur on 3 November 1980, represents a late date for this migratory species. The smallest male of *Agelaius phoeniceus* (46 gm) was captured by hand in apparently ill health; despite this, it weighed more than the largest female. The specimens of *Quiscalis niger* are assumed to be referable to the subspecies *gundlachi* on the basis of Garrido's (1973) analysis of the distribution of the Cuban forms of this species.

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A recent record of the endangered St Lucia Wren *Troglodytes aedon mesoleucus*

by Gary R. Graves

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The St Lucia Wren *Troglodytes aedon mesoleucus* is listed as critically endangered and possibly extinct by the ICBP Red Data Book (1981) and Bond (1978). Although formerly more widespread on St Lucia, the wren has been restricted since the 1930's to the region between Le Marquis and Grand Anse

on the northeastern windward coast (Danforth 1935). The last published record is of one heard but not seen in May 1971 in a tangle of trees fringing Grand Anse beach (Red Data Book 1981). More recently, Diamond (1973) failed to record this wren during censuses in the La Sorcière Valley, immediately south of Grand Anse.

On 20 August 1984 I found 2 wrens in the windward coastal scrub forest at c. 110 m asl along the 4-wheel drive road below Debarra leading to Grand Anse beach – c. 1 km west of the 1971 sighting. The first bird was singing from perches 3–5 m above the ground in a wooded ravine (canopy height 10–12 m). The song was loud and melodious and similar in quality to songs of *Thryothorus* wrens rather than to House Wrens (*Troglodytes*) breeding in eastern North America and western South America, and similar to those described for *T.a. guadeloupensis* of Guadeloupe (Barlow 1978), *T.a. rufescens* of Dominica (Bond 1928), *T.a. grenadensis* of Grenada (Clark 1905) and *T.a. musicus* of St Vincent (Clark 1905). The white underparts and proportionately long bill were conspicuous. The few foraging movements I recorded before a sudden rain shower terminated observation were of the wren peering into and probing fissures in tree bark. The relatively long bills of Lesser Antillean *Troglodytes* and my brief observations of *T.a. mesoleucus* suggest they probe crevices and fissures more than their continental counterparts (Table 1). Unfortunately, no detailed accounts of their foraging behaviour are available in the literature.

Table 1. Proportions of Antillean and mainland *Troglodytes aedon* (culmen length from anterior nostril/chord wing length) from specimens in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C. Sexes are combined because of uncertainty of data from crucial specimens.

Locality	Race	N	Range	Mean	
Guadeloupe	<i>guadeloupensis</i>	3	.223–.246	.232	Oceanic Islands
Dominica	<i>rufescens</i>	2	.212–.218	.215	
Martinique	<i>martinicensis</i>	2	.223–.232	.228	
St Lucia	<i>mesoleucus</i>	5	.232–.262	.247	
St Vincent	<i>musicus</i>	2	.212–.219	.216	
Grenada	<i>grenadensis</i>	4	.215–.254	.240	
Tobago	<i>tobagensis</i>	1	—	.201	Land-bridge Islands and Mainland
Trinidad	<i>albicans</i>	2	.201–.202	.202	
Colombia and Venezuela	<i>albicans</i>	6	.177–.202	.189	
Colombia	<i>columbae</i>	5	.183–.205	.194	
Colombia	<i>atopus</i>	9	.196–.229	.211	
Panama	<i>inquietus</i>	5	.177–.220	.195	

A second wren was heard singing about 200 m from the location of the first bird. Although no other wrens were recorded in similar habitat during the next 2 hours, the more remote forested ravines above Grand Anse could support several dozen wrens.

Other species recorded in the same scrub forest (08:00–10:30) at this locality were (number of individuals in parentheses): *Coereba flaveola* (28), *Loxigilla noctis* (25), *Vireo altiloquus* (17), *Dendroica adelaidae* (16), *Orthorhynchus cristatus* (13), *Elaenia martinica* (11), *Margarops fuscatus* (11), *Zenaidura macroura* (8), *Saltator albicollis* (7), *Tyrannus dominicensis* (5), *Coccyzus minor* (3), *Cinclocerthia ruficauda* (3), *Eulampis jugularis* (2), *Icterus laudabilis* (2), *Melanospiza richardsoni* (pair), *Buteo platypterus* (1), *Geotrygon montana* (1), *Contopus latirostris* (1) and *Molothrus bonariensis* (1).

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Some notes on the birds of Borneo

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These notes present data on 8 species of birds new to Borneo and additional information on 7 other species. All records were made by the authors from southwest Brunei, unless otherwise stated, and detailed notes may be obtained from them.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Although this is a common wintering species, only a few remain on Borneo during the breeding season and there is no previous evidence of breeding (Smythies 1981). On 7 June 1980, at Sungai Seria, a pair was observed with one flightless chick. They were seen feeding on the river banks during the following 3 days, after which the chick was not seen again. In May–June 1982 a pair was observed displaying and carrying nest material into a dense area of *Nypa fruticans* within 100 m of the site where the previous chick had been. No nest or young was discovered.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

There have been only 4 previous records from Borneo, all relating to specimens, the most recent being 1925 (Smythies 1981). One male was seen in flight by J. Collman on the east side of Labuan, Sabah, on 11 October 1970.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

There has been only one previous record for this species – a specimen collected at Kuching, Sarawak, in March 1895 (Smythies 1981). On 4 November 1981, near Labi, a large *Accipiter* was seen flying into a tree close to the roadside. The bird was watched, from a vehicle within 20 m, sitting on an exposed branch for c. 10 mins. The diagnostic characters which in conjunction separated it from other *Accipiters* which could occur on Borneo were size, lack of mesial stripe, and uniform faint barring on underparts. It was a female.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

There has been only one previous record – a specimen from Talang Talang Island collected in December 1956 (Smythies 1981). On 18 September 1980, at Sungai Seria, a rail was seen close to the roadside. Over a period of c. 15